



# NAVAL AIR ENGINEERING STATION

Lakehurst, New Jersey

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Navy Lakehurst to get new Commanding Officer**

August 1, 2007, NAES Lakehurst, NJ -- Captain Phillip L. Beachy, will relieve Captain L. Bret Gordon in a traditional change-of-command ceremony beginning at 1:00 p.m., Friday, August 3, 2007 in the base gymnasium as he transitions from executive officer to commanding officer.

CAPT Beachy, a 1982 graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, is a Naval aviator who has flown more than 3000 hours in various Naval aircraft, primarily the SH-3H Sea King and SH-60F and HH-60H Sea Hawk helicopters. He also served as a staff action officer at the Headquarters, United States European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. In 2002, CAPT Beachy reported to Naval Air Systems Command in Patuxent River, MD as served as the Executive Assistant in Acquisition and Operations and later as the Deputy Program Manager for the Joint Precision Approach and Landing System. In 2005, he reported to Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, NJ and became the installation's Executive Officer.

CAPT Beachy has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star and the Navy Commendation Medal with four gold stars, the Navy Achievement Medal and numerous other campaign and service awards.

NAES Lakehurst supports the Navy's aircraft carriers and also smaller ships designed to launch and recover helicopters as part of their missions. Employees at the base design, develop, test and improve anything that links aircraft to ships or support those that do. This includes supporting the large catapult and recovery systems, aircraft testing and support systems and the 500,000 items needed to support the variety of carrier-based aircraft.

NAES Lakehurst will also be the future home of the first Joint Service base. It will combine with McGuire AFB and Fort Dix as one of the model installations for the Department of Defense's transformation toward joint military operations.

CAPT Gordon is retiring from the Navy after over 27 years of service. CAPT Gordon, a 1980 graduate of the Naval Academy, has served as an Aerospace Maintenance Officer, Quality Assurance Officer and Production Control Officer aboard aircraft carriers during his career. He has also been the Chief Logistician for the F-14 Tomcat and was assigned to the Pentagon as a Senior Military Advisor for Maintenance Policy, Programs and Resources. CAPT Gordon became the Executive Officer at Lakehurst in 2004 and assumed command of the installation in 2005.

**Media are welcome and should plan to arrive at the base Pass and ID Office at the front gate by 12:30 p.m.**

*Navy Lakehurst – “A Heritage of Service, A Model for the Future”*

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